

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

- 1-6. (Canceled)
7. (Currently Amended) A surgical apparatus, comprising:
 - a tube defining a proximal region and a distal region;
 - a suction device associated with the distal region of the tube; and
 - a tissue stimulation element that is too small to form a transmural lesion in myocardial tissue on the suction device;

wherein the suction device does not carry an apparatus that is capable of forming a transmural lesion in myocardial tissue.
8. (Original) A surgical apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the tube comprises a flexible tube.
9. (Original) A surgical apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the suction device comprises a flexible suction device.
10. (Original) A surgical apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the suction device is substantially cup-shaped.
11. (Original) A surgical apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the tissue stimulation element comprises a stimulation electrode.

12. (Withdrawn) A surgical apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the tissue stimulation element comprises a stimulation electrode pair.

13-27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) A surgical system for use with tissue, comprising:
a source of stimulation energy;
a suction source; and
a surgical apparatus including
a tube, operably connected to suction source, defining a proximal region and a distal region,
a suction device associated with the distal region of the tube, and
a tissue stimulation element that is too small to form a transmural lesion in myocardial tissue, operably connected to the source of stimulation energy, on the suction device
wherein the suction device does not carry an apparatus that is capable of forming a transmural lesion in myocardial tissue.

29. (Withdrawn) A surgical system as claimed in claim 28, wherein the tissue stimulation element comprises a stimulation electrode pair.

30. (Previously Presented) A surgical system as claimed in claim 28, wherein the distal region of the tube does not include an electrode that is large enough to form a transmural lesion in myocardial tissue.

31. (Previously Presented) A surgical system as claimed in claim 28, wherein the tissue stimulation element defines a perimeter of about 1.5 mm to 3 mm.

32. (Previously Presented) A surgical system as claimed in claim 31, wherein the tissue stimulation element defines a thickness of about 0.01 mm.

33. (Previously Presented) A surgical system as claimed in claim 31, wherein the tissue stimulation element defines a diameter of about 0.5 mm to 1.0 mm.

34. (Previously Presented) A surgical system as claimed in claim 28, wherein the source of stimulation energy is configured to supply stimulation pulses that are about 1 millisecond in duration and about 10 mA in amplitude.

35. (Previously Presented) A surgical system as claimed in claim 34, wherein the source of stimulation energy is configured to supply two stimulation pulses per second.

36. (Canceled)

37. (Previously Presented) A surgical apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the tissue stimulation element defines a perimeter of about 1.5 mm to 3 mm.

38. (Previously Presented) A surgical apparatus as claimed in claim 37, wherein the tissue stimulation element defines a thickness of about 0.01 mm.

39. (Previously Presented) A surgical apparatus as claimed in claim 37, wherein the tissue stimulation element defines a diameter of about 0.5 mm to 1.0 mm.

40. (Previously Presented) A surgical apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the suction device does not carry an electrode that is large enough to form a transmural lesion in myocardial tissue.

41-42. (Canceled)

43. (Currently Amended) A surgical apparatus, comprising:
a tube defining a proximal region and a distal region;
a suction device associated with the distal region of the tube; and
tissue stimulation means, carried by the suction device, for stimulating myocardial tissue without forming a transmural lesion in the myocardial tissue;
wherein the suction device does not carry an apparatus that is capable of forming a transmural lesion in myocardial tissue.

44. (Previously Presented) A surgical apparatus as claimed in claim 43, wherein the tube comprises a flexible tube.

45. (Previously Presented) A surgical apparatus as claimed in claim 43, wherein the suction device comprises a flexible suction device.

46. (Previously Presented) A surgical apparatus as claimed in claim 43, wherein the suction device is substantially cup-shaped.

47. (New) A surgical apparatus, comprising:
a suction tube defining a proximal region, a distal region and a suction lumen;
a suction device, associated with the distal region of the tube, including a opening in fluid communication with the suction lumen;
a tissue stimulation element on the suction device; and
a signal line that is connected to the tissue stimulation element and extends through the suction tube.

48. (New) A surgical apparatus as claimed in claim 47, wherein the tube comprises a flexible tube.

49. (New) A surgical apparatus as claimed in claim 47, wherein the suction device comprises a flexible suction device.

50. (New) A surgical apparatus as claimed in claim 47, wherein the suction device is substantially cup-shaped.

51. (New) A surgical apparatus as claimed in claim 47, wherein the suction device defines an inner surface and the signal line extends along the inner surface and through the opening that is in fluid communication with the suction lumen.

52. (New) A surgical apparatus as claimed in claim 47, wherein the tissue stimulation element comprises a stimulation electrode.

53. (New) A surgical apparatus as claimed in claim 47, wherein the tissue stimulation element comprises a stimulation electrode pair.